

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Preister. Any discussion on the Preister amendment? Seeing none, you're recognized to close. Closing is waived. Excuse me, Senator Bromm's light did go on. Senator Bromm, you are recognized to discuss the amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Preister, could I ask a question or two.

SENATOR PREISTER: Certainly, Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Preister, the part of the bill that's being taken out that distresses me somewhat is the possibility of rural areas getting some economic development help out of the...out of the local economic...or utilities. And I'm curious, I understand the objections to the Biopower Commission and that kind of thing. But what's the...what seems to be the big problem with economic development language that was in there? Can you give me any insight into that.

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator Bromm, rather than me telling you things that would be my opinion, I think it perhaps would be best if you talked to the utilities that had the problems themselves, and they would be better able to answer that than I. It was not necessarily my choice in doing this, but it was part of the compromise, that the larger utilities were wanting to do it.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, well...

SENATOR PREISTER: And if Senator Schellpeper, whose bill it was, might be able to give you some insight, too, I don't know.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Preister. I'd ask Senator Schellpeper if he could provide any insight, if you'd yield to a question.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, I would. The same question?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Basically the two largest utilities, or I guess the three largest utilities do not want to see the rural public power district become involved in economic development when they can't get these funds from the federal government.